

**Amendments to the claims**

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior claim listings:

1. (Original) A method for backing up and restoring files comprising the steps of:  
  
installing a daemon application on systems with available disk space to store backup files;  
  
receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;  
  
creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;  
  
installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation; and  
  
receiving a request from said backup applications to download said master file.
2. **(Currently amended)** The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
  
receiving a list of files to be backed up; and  
  
selecting two or more systems from said master file to receive **redundant copies of** backup data.
3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the steps of:  
  
compressing and encrypting said backup data; and  
  
storing a second metadata and a key.
4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information:

number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the step of:

transmitting said second metadata and said key to a central system.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a list of files to be restored;

determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

connecting to one or more daemon applications on one or more systems storing said files to be restored.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

receiving said files to be restored from said one or more daemon applications;

uncompressing and decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and

restoring said files to be restored.

8. (Original) A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium for backing up and restoring files comprising the programming steps of:

installing a daemon application on systems with available disk space to store backup files;

receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;

creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;

installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation; and

receiving a request from said backup applications to download said master file.

9. **(Currently amended)** The computer program product as recited in claim 8 further comprising the programming steps of:

receiving a list of files to be backed up; and

selecting two or more systems from said master file to receive **redundant copies of** backup data.

10. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9 further comprising the programming steps of:

compressing and encrypting said backup data; and

storing a second metadata and a key.

11. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information:

number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

12. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11 further comprising the programming step of:

transmitting said second metadata and said key to a central system.

13. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 11 further comprising the programming steps of:

receiving a list of files to be restored;

determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

connecting to one or more daemon applications on one or more systems storing said files to be restored.

14. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 13 further comprising the programming steps of:

receiving said files to be restored from said one or more daemon applications;  
uncompressing and decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and  
restoring said files to be restored.

15. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a processor; and

~~a memory unit~~ storage coupled to said processor[[,]] ~~wherein said memory unit is operable for storing a computer program for backing up and restoring files;~~

wherein ~~said processor, responsive to~~ said storage includes a computer program[[,]] for backing up and restoring files, wherein said computer program comprises instructions embedded in said storage and executable by said processor, said instructions comprising:

~~circuitry operable~~ instructions for installing a daemon application on systems with available disk space to store backup files;

~~circuitry operable~~ instructions for receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;

~~circuitry operable~~ instructions for creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;

~~circuitry operable~~ instructions for installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation; and

~~circuitry operable~~ instructions for receiving a request from said backup applications to download said master file.

16. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

**a central system;**

a first computer system **coupled to said central system, said first computer system** comprising:

a first processor; and

a first memory unit coupled to said first processor, wherein said first memory unit is operable for storing a backup application operable for backing up and restoring files;

a second and a third computer system, **both coupled to said central system** wherein each of said second and said third computer system comprises:

~~a second processor;~~

~~a second memory unit coupled to said second processor, wherein said second memory unit is operable for storing~~ a daemon application operable for communicating with a **said** central system; and

a disk unit, wherein an available capacity of said disk unit is configured to store back-up files; and

~~said central system coupled to said first, said second and said third computer systems[[,]]~~  
wherein said central system comprises:

~~a third processor; and~~

~~a third memory unit coupled to said third processor, wherein said third memory unit is operable for storing~~ a computer program for installing said daemon applications on said second and third computer systems and installing said backup application on said first computer system for backup and restoration of files;

wherein said ~~third processor, responsive to said third~~ computer program **comprises instructions executable by a central system processor and embedded in storage accessible to said central system processor, wherein the instructions** comprise[[s]]:

~~circuitry operable~~ **instructions** for installing said daemon application on said second and said third computer ~~system~~ **systems**;

~~circuitry operable~~ **instructions** for receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space on said second and said third computer systems;

~~circuitry operable~~ **instructions** for creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system to store backup files;

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for installing said backup application on said first computer system to perform a backup operation; and

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for transferring a copy of said master file to said first computer responsive to receiving a request from said backup application to download said master file.

17. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein said ~~first-processor, responsive to said first computer program,~~ backup application comprises instructions, executable by said first processor and stored in storage accessible to said first processor, said instructions comprising:

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for receiving a list of files to be backed up; and

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for selecting at least one of said second and said third computer systems from said master file to receive redundant copies of backup data.

18. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 17, wherein said ~~first-processor~~ backup application further comprises:

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for compressing and encrypting said backup data; and

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for storing a second metadata and a key.

19. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information:

number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

20. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 19, wherein said ~~first-processor~~ backup application further comprises:

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for transmitting said second metadata and said key to said central system.

21. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 19, wherein said ~~first-processor~~ backup application further comprises:

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for receiving a list of files to be restored;

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for connecting to at least one of said daemon applications stored on said second and said third computer systems storing said files to be restored.

22. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said ~~first-processor~~ backup application further comprises:

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for receiving said files to be restored from at least one of said daemon applications;

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for uncompressing and decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and

~~circuitry-operable~~ instructions for restoring said files to be restored.